

Eric M Hughes
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To FCC
Washington DC

RE: NPRM 05-235

Dear Sir,

As an extra class amateur radio operator first licensed in 1979 and as a former county RACES officer for Laurens, County, I would like to give comment and opinion to NPRM (05-235)- Elimination of Morse Code requirement for all License Classes.

I have basis to provide no support to the NPRM based on the following reasons.

1- Although Morse Code has been around since the beginning of radio, It is still a mode practiced and enjoyed by many thousands of hams worldwide. But more importantly, the Morse Code is the only mode that gives distinction from the other radio services like Family Radio Service and Citizens Radio Service,.

2-As a former coordinator for the Laurens County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, I had the opportunity to see how important having a backup plan to re-enforce State and County Communications systems with various modes of communications (including Morse Nets) was a necessary part of emergency communications training in the event of disasters.

3- The American Radio Relay League operates an established training program on the local, state and national level to provide a trained operator base for Morse Code Nets in time of disaster or national communications emergencies in the event voice satellites go out of service, voice transmissions wont break through noisy band conditions, language barriers, or to allow hams to use home brew equipment.

4- Currently the Amateur Extra Class Licence is the only introduction or pathway to this specialized mode of communications. The 5 WPM gives a basic exposure to this old but efficient form of communications that may or may not cause people to pick up and use a key, but many will and this will maintain the distinction of Amateur Radio as a National communications reserve in times of disaster. In any event I do not feel the 5 WPM Code exam to be a undue burden to the majority of Extra Class License Applicants.

5- Concerning the bandwidth issue, Morse Code and other narrow band modes conserves amateur radio spectrum in both casual operation and especially during communications

emergencies. I feel Morse Code is the single most efficient mode of Amateur communications. The Morse Code must be protected as a efficient and still useful communications mode by careful spectrum management and exposure to the Amateur Community through the Extra Class License exam as a pathway to an exciting hobby and a Public Radio Service.

Therefore I respectfully oppose NPRM 05-235 and ask that it be dismissed in the best interest of Amateur Radio.

Sincerely, Eric M. Hughes